32692 Customer Number Patent

Case No.: 53964US002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor:

SITZ, RICHARD G.

Application No.:

09/960132

Group Art Unit:

1762

Filed:

September 21, 2001

Examiner:

Jennifer Kolb Michener

Title:

DRYING METHOD FOR SELECTIVELY REMOVING VOLATILE

COMPONENTS FROM WET COATINGS

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 CFR § 1.136(a)

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

To Fax No.: 703-872-9306 I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent

and Trademark Office on:

February 17, 2004 Date

Signed by: Carol Decaire

Dear Sir:

Under the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.136(a), Applicant petitions to extend the period for filing a reply in the above-identified application. The requested extension and appropriate fee are as follows (check time period desired):

37 CFR § 1.17(a)(1) - Extension within first month
⊠ 37 CFR § 1.17(a)(2) - Extension within second month
37 CFR § 1.17(a)(3) - Extension within third month
37 CFR § 1.17(a)(4) - Extension within fourth month.

Please charge any fees due, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3723.

One copy of this sheet marked duplicate is also enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

February 17, 2004

Date

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Office of Intellectual Property Counsel 3M Innovative Properties Company

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